

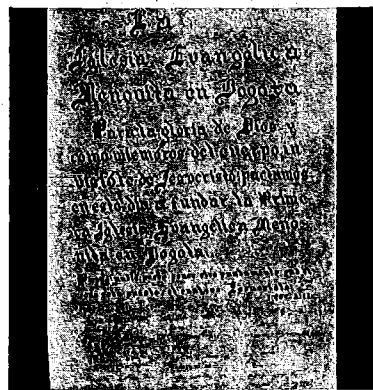
AUGUST 1964

THIS IS A
CALL TO PRAYER
FOR
THE LORD'S WORK
IN
COLOMBIA



COLOMBIAN NEWS

NUMBER THIRTY-NINE



A NEW CHURCH

Cachipay, Cund., Colombia, S. A.

INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE MENNONITE MISSION IN COLOMBIA

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NEW MENNONITE CHURCH FOUNDED IN BOGOTA



Charter Members



Young Girls Join

"YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES IN BOGOTA"

Over two hundred persons witnessed the founding of the first Mennonite church in the capital city of Bogota. In an impressive service twenty-seven charter members reaffirmed their faith in Jesus Christ and His church. A large number of the group were former students of the Colegio Americano in Cachipay and former members of churches in Cachipay, La Mesa, and Anolima.

After five months of worship services and church-in-the-house meetings in Bogota, the group decided to officially found the church. The Founding Sunday was planned to correspond with the visit of Rev. Andrew Shelly to Colombia. Rev. Shelly, the main speaker, congratulated the new congregation but also challenged the newly formed church to become "witnesses of the gospel" in Bogota. Each charter member declared publicly his faith in Jesus Christ and then signed a scroll which states: "For the glory of God and as members of the invisible body of Jesus Christ; we covenant in this day to found the First Evangelical Mennonite Church in Bogota."

Rev. Gerald Stucky recalled the spiritual pilgrimage of the members and challenged the new church to a future of witness and service. Rev. Gilberto Vargas, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Bogota, where the new church holds worship services, brought words of congratulations on behalf of other evangelical churches in Bogota. A trio composed of new church members sang the hymn, "How Great Thou Art" which expressed the gratitude of each member as to what God had accomplished in Bogota.



Oldest Convert Joins

SIGNING THE SCROLL

Young Man Joins



NEW PASTOR OF CACHIPAY CHURCH

Mr. Luis Correa became the new pastor of the church in Cachipay early this spring. Luis is a former student of the Colegio Americano and it was there he felt God's call to enter into Christian service. After attending Mennonite seminary in Montevideo, Uruguay for a period of two years he returned to serve the Cachipay



Luis Correa

church of which he is also a member. Luis is a fine young pastor who is devoting his full time and energies in leading the congregation in Cachipay. The new pastor is also holding services in two small towns near Cachipay. He hopes to complete his seminary training in the future.

REV. ANDREW SHELLY VISITS COLOMBIA

A very welcome visitor to Colombia was Rev. Andrew Shelly, Executive Secretary of the General Conference Mennonite Board of Missions. Rev. Shelly arrived a few hours prior to the founding of the new church in Bogota. This visit to Colombia was his briefest but perhaps the busiest. The entire mission staff met together with Rev. Shelly in three days of discussions, deliberations, and decision making for the future work of Christ in Colombia. Every phase of mission life, work, and problems was considered carefully and prayerfully during daylong sessions at the Colegio Americano in Cachipay.

Rev. Shelly was given opportunity to visit each of the four churches and speak to the congregations. National pastors and workers were given time to meet with Rev. Shelly and discuss and share problems of common concern.

The mission staff was grateful to the Mission Board for permitting Rev. Shelly to visit Colombia and share firsthand the work and witness of the Colombian field.



Holding Daily Meetings



Missionaries with Rev. Shelly



Farewell

STUCKYS RETURN ON FURLOUGH

After bidding farewell to the students and staff of the Colegio Americano, members of the Colombian churches, and fellow co-workers, Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Stucky with their son Timmy left Colombia for the United States. This furlough will represent for the Stuckys eighteen years of missionary service in Colombia. The Stuckys arrived in Colombia in 1946 and have seen the Colombian mission grow to two schools with an enrollment of about two hundred students plus four churches in Cachipay, La Mesa, Anolima, and now Bogota. The Stuckys are now reunited with their family in Berne, Indiana. Rev. and Mrs. Stucky will travel widely in General Conference churches during their furlough period of six months. Rev. Stucky will be the main speaker at Bluffton College during Mission Emphasis Week in early fall.

KLAASSENS DIRECT COLEGIO

During the six months furlough of the Stuckys, Glendon and Reitha Klaassen, who recently returned to Colombia for their second term, will direct the mission and be the directors of the Colegio Americano in Cachipay. The Klaassens spent their first term of service as teachers in the normal school at Ibaque. Directing the Colegio in Cachipay is a big task but the Klaassens bring both dedication and experience of working in mission institutions to the task of directing the Colegio.



Klaassen Assumes New Responsibility

Following the Stucky's return to Colombia the Klaassens will return to Ibaque to assume their teaching responsibilities in the normal school. It is also hoped that the Klaassens will be able to give assistance to a national pastor in beginning a Mennonite church in the city of Ibaque. This year in the normal school at Ibaque fourteen Mennonite students are preparing for Christian service. Glendon and Reitha have been active in giving counselling to these young Christians.

Reflections and Reactions of a Colombian Missionary

FURLOUGH AND BACK

Janet Soldner


There are several things which impress a missionary on furlough, things which United States citizens take for granted. Four-lane highways, turnpikes, and big beautiful cars. Men sit on lawnmowers, while in the basement of many a home there is a weight reducing apparatus purchased from some mail-order house. There are diets of all kinds and many items in the stores for the candidates of creeping obesity. We become acquainted with laundromats, automatic dishwashers, garbage disposals, and electric sweepers. Do all these things make Americans better citizens and Christians better church members?

In our own western hemisphere, only a few hours by jet from United States shores we live in Colombia where all these modern things are few. The narrow streets of the capital city are not made for modern traffic. Scores of men are blocking the sidewalks, the streets are jammed with people. It's not a holiday! Why all this unemployment and poverty? How do they earn their daily bread? What modern "gadgets" can they boast about?

Returning from furlough you see familiar faces in the stores and on the streets. Shops in Bogota which once seemed exclusive now seem quite ordinary after visiting in the United States. People seem to look thinner and more emaciated than I had remembered them before. There must be a real lack of income in many a Colombian home. How about the church? It is a happy experience to again greet our brethren who have been faithful to Christ during my absence. It is a joy to see the Christians reading their Bibles before the services of worship begin. And of course, to be privileged to witness the founding of a new church in Bogota on the first Sunday back to Colombia is a proof that the Lord has been faithful.

On returning, naturally one's thoughts turn toward the church in the homeland. Thinking of all the modern conveniences, big cars, beautiful highways, high income, a missionary wonders why is it that dimes and quarters are still jingling when the collection plate is passed? What about your Christian stewardship? As we labor together, we in Colombia and you in your own community and church, let us remember the words of our Lord, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit."

Three national pastors, Luis Correa, Jaime Caro, Juan Garzon, along with Armando Hernandex were the principal leaders at this year's spiritual retreat for the churches held in Cachipay. Good attendance, evangelistic preaching, and excellent Bible study classes featured the retreat program.




Retreat Leaders Discuss Program

Special classes and programs for children were led by Miss Carmen, an outstanding teacher and children's worker from the Presbyterian school in Giradot. Singing of new songs and illustrating Bible stories highlighted the children's program. Janet Soldner and Geraldine Freed assisted the children's worker throughout the retreat.



Special Children's Classes



Friday of the retreat was highlighted with a Holy Communion service led by Rev. Howard Habegger. Rev. Glendon Klaassen officiated both in a service of child dedication and the baptism of two young believers. An impressive baptismal service was conducted with the candidates professing publicly their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Baptism of New Convert

Armando Hernandex, graduate of the seminary in San Jose, Costa Rica not only did the evening evangelistic preaching but also led each morning in Bible studies from James. Luis Correa taught a class in church history giving special emphasis to Anabaptist history and doctrine. These classes were well attended and received enthusiastically.



Armando Leads Informal Bible Study



VOLUNTARY SERVICE WORKER COMPLETES SERVICE

Miss Geraldine Freed, voluntary service worker from Grace Mennonite Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania, has completed her term of service in Colombia. Miss Freed rendered valuable service as she replaced Janet Soldner as school nurse during Janet's furlough. Geraldine performed duties as girls' dorm counselor and other general tasks at the Colegio Americano in Cachipay. Miss Freed also had a memorable experience delivering a baby by candlelight in the mountains of Colombia at 2:30 a.m. The staff greatly appreciated Geraldine's work and the spirit in which she gave herself while in Colombia.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Alice Bachert, veteran missionary of over thirty years, returned to the United States and Canada for a furlough. Miss Bachert is a Canadian and has been supported by the Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church, Kitchener, Ontario.

New Long-term VS Workers Arrive in Colombia. Mr. and Mrs. Dale Souder with their two children, Danny, Jr. and Amy, arrived in Colombia as new VS workers. After a few days in Bogota with the Habegggers, the Souders moved to Cachipay where they assumed new duties. Dan is an expert mechanic and handyman and will prove valuable in giving technical assistance to the missionaries. Mrs. Souder will help in the general duties of the mission and will also assist in the musical program of the chapel and church in Cachipay. Welcome, Souders!

PRAISE AND PRAYER

Praise Him for the new congregation established in Bogota.
Pray for all phases of the work--evangelistic, educational, and pastoral.

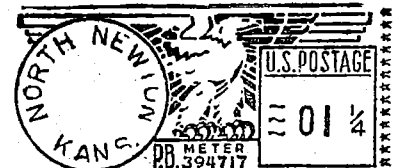
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